

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-3 have been revised. Support for the revisions can be found in, e.g., Figs. 14-17 and 18A, 18B, among other places. Claims 1-7 remain pending in the application.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Editorial revisions have been made in claims 1-3 to address the Examiner's concern. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Motomi et al. (WO 03/039941 A1; US Publication No. 2005/0017057 used for US equivalency). Applicants note that the effective prior art date of the Motomi et al. reference is May 15, 2003, which is the publication date of the Japanese language PCT application. The present application, however, claims priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 to Japanese Application No. 2002-307059, filed October 22, 2002. Accordingly, applicants submit herewith a verified translation of the application to prefect the claim to priority. Motomi et al. are not available as prior art and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McNamara et al. (US Patent No. 6,595,407) in view of McNamara (US Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0037432), as evidenced by Ray (US Patent No. 5,943,768). Applicants respectively traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 requires conveying each of a plurality of joisted-locating jigs along a jig transfer line extending above a pair of fixed frames transversely of a body transfer line. That is, the plurality of joisted-locating jigs are conveyed from one side of the body transfer line to the fixed frames and then from the fixed frames to the opposite side of the

body transfer line. Claim 1 also requires conveying each of the plurality of joisted-locating jigs 1) from a first stock area to the fixed frames for attachment thereto and 2) from the fixed frames to a second stock area for replacement with other joisted-locating jigs which are also conveyed from the first stock area to the fixed frames. This one-way transfer of jigs allows removal of a used jig to the second stock area to be performed substantially simultaneously with transferring a new jig from the first stock area and thus effectively helps increase the efficiency of jig replacement (see page 16, lines 23-28 of the specification and Figs. 17, 18A and 18B, among other places). In addition, a transfer force for conveying the new jig from the first stock area can be utilized for pushing the used jib onto the second stock area.

McNamara et al. (US Patent No. 6,595,407) fail to teach or suggest conveying each of a plurality of joisted-locating jigs along a jig transfer line extending above a pair of fixed frames transversely of a body transfer line, as required by claim 1. Instead, McNamara et al. (US Patent No. 6,595,407) merely discuss two members of a frame game pair 18 (see McNamara et al., Fig. 1) being transferred along a pair of parallel framing station rails 60 after the two members of the frame game pair 18 are assembled as one single structural member 18, where the framing station rails 60 extend in parallel to a body transfer line (see McNamara et al., Figs. 1-3). McNamara et al. (US Patent No. 6,595,407) provide no teachings or suggestions as to conveying of jigs from one side of a body transfer line to an opposite side of the body transfer line.

McNamara (US Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0037432) does not remedy the deficiencies of McNamara et al. (US Patent No. 6,595,407). In addition, McNamara (US Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0037432) fails to teach or suggest conveying each of the plurality of joisted-locating jigs 1) from a first stock area to the fixed frames for attachment thereto and 2) from the fixed frames to a second stock area for replacement with other joisted-locating jigs which are also conveyed from the first stock area to the fixed frames, as required by claim 1. McNamara (US Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0037432) merely discusses storing four different framing gate pairs 16 each including a pair of releasable interconnecting extension frames 60 in different storage stations 20, 22, 24, 26, where the storage stations 20, 22, 24, 26 are

arranged around a turntable 28 (see McNamara, paragraphs [0028] and [0033]). When in use, one of the framing gate pairs 16 is selected to transfer from the station 20 to the turntable 28 and then from the turntable 28 to a framing station 12 (see McNamara, Fig. 1). For replacement, the selected framing gate pair 16 is transferred back from the framing station 12 to the turntable 28 (see McNamara, Figs. 2 and 3) and then from the turntable 28 to the storage station 20 (see McNamara, Fig. 4), which is the station that the framing gate pair 16 was previously stored. McNamara (US Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0037432) is silent as to conveying each of the plurality of joisted-locating jigs 1) from a first stock area to the fixed frames for attachment thereto and 2) from the fixed frames to a second stock area for replacement with other joisted-locating jigs which are also conveyed from the first stock area to the fixed frames, as required by claim 1.

Ray does not remedy the deficiencies of McNamara et al. (US Patent No. 6,595,407) and McNamara (US Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0037432). Ray merely discusses transferring an assembled rigid frame 34, rather than conveying jigs as required by claim 1.

For at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentable over McNamara et al. (US Patent No. 6,595,407) in view of McNamara (US Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0037432), as evidenced by Ray (US Patent No. 5,943,768). Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and is patentable along with claim 1 and need not be separately distinguished at this time. Applicants are not conceding the relevance of the rejection to the remaining features of the rejected claims.

Claims 3-5 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over McNamara et al. (US Patent No. 6,595,407) in view of McNamara (US Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0037432), as evidenced by Ray, and further in view of Kozai (Japanese Publication No. JP62-110580A) and Wood et al. (US No. 5,972,112). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claims 3-5 depend ultimately from claim 1 and are patentable over McNamara et al. (US Patent No. 6,595,407) in view of McNamara (US Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0037432), Kozai and Wood et

al. for at least the same reasons discussed above regarding claims 1 and 2. Kozai and Wood et al. do not remedy the deficiencies of McNamara et al. (US Patent No. 6,595,407) in view of McNamara (US Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0037432). Applicants are not conceding the relevance of the rejection to the remaining features of the rejected claims.

Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over McNamara et al. (US Patent No. 6,595,407) in view of McNamara (US Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0037432), as evidenced by Ray, and further in view of Kozai, Wood et al. and Japanese Publication No. JP53-151007U. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claims 6 and 7 depend ultimately from claim 3 and are patentable over McNamara et al. (US Patent No. 6,595,407) in view of McNamara (US Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0037432), Kozai, Wood et al. and JP53-151007 for at least the same reasons discussed above regarding claims 3-5. JP53-151007 does not remedy the deficiencies of McNamara et al. (US Patent No. 6,595,407), McNamara (US Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0037432), Kozai and Wood et al. Applicants are not conceding the relevance of the rejection to the remaining features of the rejected claims.

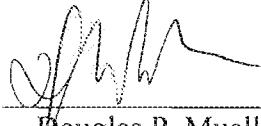
Serial No.: 10/532,462
Examiner: Stephen J. Ralis
Reply to Office Action Mailed January 13, 2009
Page 8 of 8

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612) 455-3804.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER &
LARSON, P.C.
P.O. Box 2902-0902
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0902
(612) 455-3800

Dated: June 15, 2009

By: 
Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300

DPM/cy